

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device comprising:
a housing ~~having at least one outside edge~~ comprising a face, a back and an outside edge,
the back being located substantially behind the face,
the outside edge comprising at least two adjoining sections and at least one corner edge wherein two adjoining sections of the outside edge are connected at an angle by each of the at least one corner edge;
at least one touchpad ~~that is continuously disposed along at least a portion of the~~
~~at least one~~ the at least two adjoining sections and the at least one corner edge of the
outside edge of the housing in order to form a single touchpad along the at least two non-parallel sections and the at least one corner edge; and
a user input detector, electrically coupled to the at least one touchpad, for detecting user input from the at least one touchpad ~~disposed along at least a portion of the outside edge of the housing.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the at least one touchpad extends substantially about a perimeter of the housing along the at least one outside edge of the housing.
3. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 2, wherein the perimeter of the housing is rounded.

4. (Original) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user input detector comprises capacitive sensing technology for detecting user input.
5. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the at least one touchpad comprises at least one of a distinctive shape and texture, for providing a tactile feedback to the user.
6. (Original) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises at least one of: a keyboard, a computer, and a display.
7. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein a sliding contact with the at least one touchpad causes an adjustment of an operating variable unrelated to graphical object display.
- 8-9. (Cancelled).
10. (Original) The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a display having a display screen.
11. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the at least one outside edge of the housing is located about at least one edge of the display, and the at least one touchpad is disposed along at least a portion of the at least one edge of the display.

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 10, further comprising a primary input device for controlling a pointer in the display, wherein the at least one touchpad serves as a secondary input device for controlling at least one of the following: scrolling, zooming, three-dimensional manipulation, slider control, and adjusting a variable.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 10, wherein a sliding contact with the at least one touchpad causes at least one of the following manipulations of objects displayed on the display screen: scrolling, zooming, three-dimensional manipulation, pointer movement, slider control, and adjustment of a variable.

14. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 10, wherein a sliding contact with the at least one touchpad along one outside edge provides one dimensional control of objects displayed on the display screen.

15. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 401, wherein ~~a plurality of touchpads are disposed along at least a portion of a plurality of outside edges of the housing and~~ the at least one touchpad comprises a plurality of sections and each section of the at least one touchpad controls movement in one of at least two different one-dimensional axes, whereby user input provided along the plurality of ~~touchpads~~ sections provides multi-dimensional manipulation of objects displayed on ~~the a~~ display screen.

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 15, wherein ~~two touchpads are~~ the plurality of sections is disposed along at least a portion of two outside edges of the housing and each of the ~~two touchpads~~ plurality of sections controls movement in one of two different one-dimensional axes, whereby user input provided along the ~~two touchpads~~ plurality of sections provides multi-dimensional manipulation of objects displayed on the display screen.

17. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 15, wherein the multi-dimensional manipulation of objects comprises two-dimensional manipulation of objects displayed on the display screen.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 15, wherein the multi-dimensional manipulation of objects comprises three-dimensional manipulation of objects displayed on the display screen.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
displaying at least one object on a graphical display;
simultaneously touching at least two touchpads that are each disposed about the
an outside edge of a housing;
detecting the simultaneous touching; and
transmitting an electrical signal upon detecting the simultaneous touching to a
control circuit, wherein the control circuit acts upon the electrical signal and controls
manipulation of the at least one object in at least two dimensions, wherein each of the at
least two dimensions is manipulated in response to touching a corresponding touchpad
within the at least two touchpads.

20-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, ~~further comprising the steps~~
~~of:~~
~~transmitting an output signal from the control circuit to a graphical display; and~~
wherein the manipulation comprises navigating within the display in accordance
with the output signal.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the housing comprises at least two different outside edges and the step of touching comprises using two hands to simultaneously provide dual sliding contacts along the at least two different outside edges in order to simultaneously manipulate the at least one object in at least two dimensions.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of touching comprises using tactile feel to position at least one finger along the outside edge of the housing.

25. (Currently Amended) A touchpad input device comprising:
a touchpad disposed along at least a portion of at least one outside edge of a housing;
a dimension selection switch able to select one of at least two dimensions;
a user input detector, electrically coupled to the touchpad and the dimension selection switch, for detecting user input from the touchpad and a selected dimension selected by the dimension selection switch and transmitting input signals, wherein the input signals controls movement in the selected dimension in response to the user input; and
a control circuit electrically coupled to the user input detector; wherein the control circuit acts upon the input signals from the user input detector.

26. (Original) The touchpad input device of claim 25, further comprising a display electrically coupled to the control circuit wherein the control circuit transmits output signals to the display.

27. (Previously Presented) The touchpad input device of claim 26, wherein the display is within the housing and the at least one outside edge of the housing is located about at least one edge of the display, and the touchpad is disposed along at least a portion of the at least one edge of the display.

28. (Previously Presented) The touchpad input device of claim 25, wherein the touchpad extends substantially about a perimeter of the housing along the at least one outside edge of the housing.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Original) The touchpad input device of claim 25 wherein the touchpad comprises at least one of a distinctive shape and texture, for providing a tactile feedback to the user.

31. (Original) The touchpad input device of claim 25, further comprising an analog-to-digital converter electrically coupled between the user input detector and the control circuit for converting electrical signals into digital information readable by the control circuit.

32. (Original) The touchpad input device of claim 25, further comprising a threshold comparator electrically coupled between the user input detector and the control circuit.

33. (Original) The touchpad input device of claim 25, further comprising an electric signal amplifier electrically coupled between the user input detector and the control circuit.

34. (Previously Presented) The touchpad input device of claim 25, wherein the touchpad comprises a touchpad strip disposed along at least a portion of at least one outside edge of the housing for detecting user input along the touchpad strip.

35. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the three-dimensional manipulation comprises one of zoom and rotate.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the at least two touchpads comprise at least three touchpads, and wherein each of the at least three touchpads correspond to one of x-axis manipulation, y-axis manipulation and one of zoom and rotate.

37. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein one of the at least two dimensions is one of zoom and rotate.

38. (New) The electronic device of claim 15, wherein the display screen is on a display contained within a housing.

39. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the display is on a graphical display substantially surrounded by the housing on which the at least two touchpads are each disposed about an outside edge of the housing.